

[Internal memo from Alan Lomax to Harold Spivacke, August 31, 1939]

To the Chief of the Music Division August 31, 1939

Music

I have read Dr. Corse's report on the works of the Florida W.P.A. in field recording with much interest. Their approach seems sound and the technique described valid. I suggest that all background material be recorded on good recording areas of the disc. It would be worth-while: to ask singers of different types, ages, etc. to recite the words of a song or so for the records; to question them before the mike about their own opinion of their songs, of the factual or moral content of the song; to obtain biographies of singers with large or extensive repertoires. In other words the more complete the documentation, the better I feel sure, however, that if Mr. Morris has helped in the work, he has already made these and other suggestions.

Alan Lomax